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|  | She was an active, practical woman of middle age. Not long |
|  | before she had celebrated her silver wedding and renewed her |
|  | intimacy with her husband by waltzing with him to Mr. Power’s |
| *Line* | accompaniment. In her days of courtship, Mr. Kernan had seemed to |
| *(5)* | her a not ungallant figure: and she still hurried to the chapel |
|  | door whenever a wedding was reported and, seeing the bridal pair, |
|  | recalled with vivid pleasure how she had passed out of the Star |
|  | of the Sea Church in Sandymount, leaning on the arm of a jovial |
|  | well-fed man, who was dressed smartly in a frock-coat and |
| *(10)* | lavender trousers and carried a silk hat gracefully balanced upon |
|  | his other arm. After three weeks she had found a wife’s life |
|  | irksome and, later on, when she was beginning to find it |
|  | unbearable, she had become a mother. The part of mother presented |
|  | to her no insuperable difficulties and for twenty-five years she |
| *(15)* | had kept house shrewdly for her husband. Her two eldest sons were |
|  | launched. One was in a draper’s shop in Glasgow and the other was |
|  | clerk to a tea-merchant in Belfast. They were good sons, wrote |
|  | regularly and sometimes sent home money. The other children were |
|  | still at school. |
| *(20)* | Mr. Kernan sent a letter to his office next day and remained |
|  | in bed. She made beef-tea for him and scolded him roundly. She |
|  | accepted his frequent intemperance as part of the climate, healed |
|  | him dutifully whenever he was sick and always tried to make him |
|  | eat a breakfast. There were worse husbands. He had never been |
| *(25)* | violent since the boys had grown up, and she knew that he would |
|  | walk to the end of Thomas Street and back again to book even a |
|  | small order. |
|  | Two nights after, his friends came to see him. She brought |
|  | them up to his bedroom, the air of which was impregnated with a |
| *(30)* | personal odor, and gave them chairs at the fire. Mr. Kernan’s |
|  | tongue, the occasional stinging ï¿½pain of which had made him |
|  | somewhat irritable during the day, became more polite. He sat |
|  | propped up in the bed by pillows and the little color in his |
|  | puffy cheeks made them resemble warm cinders. He apologized to |
| *(35)* | his guests for the disorder of the room, but at the same time |
|  | looked at them a little proudly, with a veteran’s pride. |
|  | He was quite unconscious that he was the victim of a plot |
|  | which his friends, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. M’Coy and Mr. Power had |
|  | disclosed to Mrs. Kernan in the parlor. The idea had been Mr. |
| *(40)* | Power’s, but its development was entrusted to Mr. Cunningham. Mr. |
|  | Kernan came of Protestant stock and, though he had been converted |
|  | to the Catholic faith at the time of his marriage, he had not |
|  | been in the pale of the Church for twenty years. He was fond, |
|  | moreover, of giving side-thrusts at Catholicism. |
| *(45)* | Mr. Cunningham was the very man for such a case. He was an |
|  | elder colleague of Mr. Power. His own domestic life was not very |
|  | happy. People had great sympathy with him, for it was known that |
|  | he had married an unpresentable woman who was an incurable |
|  | drunkard. He had set up house for her six times; and each time |
| *(50)* | she had pawned the furniture on him. |
|  | Everyone had respect for poor Martin Cunningham. He was a |
|  | thoroughly sensible man, influential and intelligent. His blade |
|  | of human knowledge, natural astuteness particularized by long |
|  | association with cases in the police courts, had been tempered by |
| *(55)* | brief immersions in the waters of general philosophy. He was well |
|  | informed. His friends bowed to his opinions and considered that |
|  | his face was like Shakespeare’s. |
|  | When the plot had been disclosed to her, Mrs. Kernan had |
|  | said: |
| *(60)* | “I leave it all in your hands, Mr. Cunningham.” |
|  | After a quarter of a century of married life, she had very |
|  | few illusions left. Religion for her was a habit, and she |
|  | suspected that a man of her husband’s age would not change |
|  | greatly before death. She was tempted to see a curious |
| *(65)* | appropriateness in his accident and, but that she did not wish to |
|  | seem bloody-minded, would have told the gentlemen that Mr. |
|  | Kernan’s tongue would not suffer by being shortened. However, Mr. |
|  | Cunningham was a capable man; and religion was religion. The |
|  | scheme might do good and, at least, it could do no harm. Her |
| *(70)* | beliefs were not extravagant. She believed steadily in the Sacred |
|  | Heart as the most generally useful of all Catholic devotions and |
|  | approved of the sacraments. Her faith was bounded by her kitchen, |
|  | but, if she was put to it, she could believe also in the banshee |
|  | and in the Holy Ghost. |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | According to the passage, people feel sorry for Mr. Cunningham because: | | |  | **A.** | he is sensible, influential, and intelligent. | |  | **B.** | he was the victim of a plot by his friends. | |  | **C.** | he has a long association with police courts. | |  | **D.** | he is married to a drunkard. |   According to his friends, Mr. Cunningham resembles: | |
|  | **A.** | Mr. Kernan. |
|  | **B.** | a policeman. |
|  | **C.** | Shakespeare. |
|  | **D.** | Mr. Power. |

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| How many children do the Kernans have? | |
|  | **A.** | None |
|  | **B.** | One |
|  | **C.** | Two |
|  | **D.** | More than two |

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| The second paragraph (lines 20-27) suggests that the Kernans’ marriage is characterized primarily by: | |
|  | **A.** | Mr. Kernan’s violent behavior toward his wife. |
|  | **B.** | Mrs. Kernan’s patience with her husband. |
|  | **C.** | Mr. Kernan’s fondness for his wife’s beef-tea. |
|  | **D.** | Mr. Kernan’s willingness to go to the store for his wife. |
| It can be reasonably inferred from this passage that Mrs. Kernan’s attitude toward religion is: | |
|  | **A.** | fervently pious. |
|  | **B.** | practical but faithful. |
|  | **C.** | skeptical. |
|  | **D.** | nonexistent. |